GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2925
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
REHABILITATION OF RESIDENTS IN RANIGANJ AND JHARIA COALFIELDS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted any amount for the rehabilitation of the affected residents, living in unsafe area in Raniganj and Jharia coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been made in this regard till now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to remove the constraints?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Two schemes under "Environmental Measure & Subsidence Control" (EMSC) have been approved in May 1998 as given below:-

(i) Shifting of people from most endangered areas of BCCL in Jhariacoalfield for Rs. 33.88 crores. The scheme has now been revised for Rs. 61.09 crores.

(ii) Rehabilitation of four unstable localities in Raniganj coalfield in ECL for Rs. 32.52 crores.

(c) to (d): (1) Jharia Coalfield: Scheme for shifting of people from most endangered areas of BCCL in Jharia coalfield envisages shifting of 1500 BCCL peopleand 3100 Non-BCCL people.For shifting BCCL people, constructionof 344 houses have been taken up by BCCL. 32 people/families havealready been shifted to newly constructed houses. Construction of another 252 houses have been completed but certain development work is yet to be done. Construction of balance 60 houses is in progress.

For non-BCCL people, Government of Jharkhandi s to implement construction of houses. State Government has constituted a committee in August 2001 to look into the problems of rehabilitation of non-BCCLpeople. Rehabilitation site has been finalized at Belgora Mouza on non-coal bearing area.

Construction of all the 4600 houses is scheduled to be completed by March 2006.

(2) Raniganj Coalfield: Scheme for rehabilitation of four unstable localities in Raniganj coalfield envisages shifting of Kenda Village, Samdih Village, Refugee Basti & Harishpur Villagewithin the command area of ECL. The status of rehabilitation of the above villages are as under:-

Kenda − Rehabilitation site identified but not accepted by villagers. Alternate site for rehabilitation is yet to be finalized. Socio-economic survey is in progress. Villagers are yet to submit their land holding documents.

Samdih − Several rehabilitation sites were offered but villagers did not accept. They have now claimed for compensation of land & structures instead of rehabilitation, which is beyond the purview of the approved scheme. Household survey along with probable compensation has been estimated.

Refugee Basti − Rehabilitation site identified and accepted by villagers after several meetings & discussions. The site is near Baidyanathpur-Govindpur siding and is overlying old underground workings of erstwhile owners. Stability of the site is being studied by CMPDIL and after that CMPDIL will plan the rehabilitation township. Socio-economic survey has been completed.

Harishpur − Rehabilitation site identified but not accepted by villagers. Villagers are not cooperating in conducting household survey.

Thus, due to unwillingness and non-cooperation of villagers there has been little progress for rehabilitation.

Against this scheme, Rs. 1 crore has been released and a nominal amount (around Rs. 0.42 lakhs) has so far been spent.

(e): In ECL, because of slow progress, a core committee consisting of District Magistrate/Burdwan, CMD/ECL, Principal Secretary/Commerce & Industry/West Bengal and CMPDIL official was constituted in 1998. Core committee decided that villagers should be resettled either in ECL's land or in Government vested land in non-coal bearing area so that rehabilitation could be implemented at the earliest. Subsequently, a core group was constituted in June 1998 consisting of ADM/Asansol, and GM level officers of ECL and CMPDIL to interact with villagers and implement the rehabilitation programme. Village committees have been constituted for all the four localities. For rehabilitation of Harishpur village, a meeting was held between Chief Minister of West Bengal and Minister of Coal & Mines in November, 2001. As per decision taken in this meeting, a technical committee has been constituted and the said committee has also examined the issue. It has been decided that alternative sites in lieu of Mangalpur will be identified by State Government for rehabilitation.